



## Protecting health from climate change: World Health Day 2008

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<b>Author(s):</b>	World Health Organization (WHO)
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### Abstract:

Climate change can no longer be considered simply an environmental or developmental issue. More importantly, it puts at risk the protection and improvement of human health and well-being. A greater appreciation of the human health dimensions of climate change is necessary for both the development of effective policy and the mobilization of public engagement. Strengthening of public health services needs to be a central component of adaptation to climate change. The international health community already has a wealth of experience in protecting people from climate-sensitive hazards, and proven, cost-effective health interventions are already available to counter the most urgent of these. Broadening the coverage of available interventions would greatly improve health now. Coupled with forward planning, it would also reduce vulnerability to climate changes as they unfold in the future. The diverse, widespread, long-term and inequitable distribution of health risks makes climate change a truly global challenge, calling for an unprecedented degree of partnership. An effective response will require actions from across society: from individuals, the health sector, and community and political leaders. A fair and effective response will require a sharing of responsibilities between the populations that make the greatest contribution to climate change and those that are most vulnerable to its effects, in order to safeguard and enhance global public health security. -- Excerpted text.

**Source:** [http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/43867/1/9789241596527\\_eng.pdf?ua=1](http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/43867/1/9789241596527_eng.pdf?ua=1)

### Resource Description

#### Climate Scenario :

specification of climate scenario (set of assumptions about future states related to climate)

Special Report on Emissions Scenarios (SRES)

**Special Report on Emissions Scenarios (SRES) Scenario:** SRES A1, SRES A2, SRES B1

#### Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Air Pollution, Ecosystem Changes, Extreme Weather Event, Food/Water Quality, Food/Water Security, Food/Water Security, Glacier/Snow Melt, Human Conflict/Displacement, Human Conflict/Displacement, Precipitation, Sea Level Rise, Temperature, Other Exposure

**Air Pollution:** Allergens, Interaction with Temperature, Ozone

# Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

**Extreme Weather Event:** Drought, Flooding, Hurricanes/Cyclones, Landslides

**Food/Water Quality:** Pathogen

**Food/Water Security:** Agricultural Productivity, Food Access/Distribution, Nutritional Quality

**Temperature:** Extreme Heat, Fluctuations

**Geographic Feature:** 

resource focuses on specific type of geography

Arctic, Mountain, Ocean/Coastal, Tropical, Urban

**Geographic Location:** 

resource focuses on specific location

Global or Unspecified

**Health Co-Benefit/Co-Harm (Adaption/Mitigation):** 

specification of beneficial or harmful impacts to health resulting from efforts to reduce or cope with greenhouse gases

A focus of content

**Health Impact:** 

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Cardiovascular Effect, Infectious Disease, Morbidity/Mortality, Respiratory Effect

**Infectious Disease:** Foodborne/Waterborne Disease, Vectorborne Disease, Zoonotic Disease

**Foodborne/Waterborne Disease:** Cholera, General Foodborne/Waterborne Disease, Salmonellosis, Schistosomiasis, Other Diarrheal Disease

**Vectorborne Disease:** General Vectorborne, Mosquito-borne Disease, Tick-borne Disease

**Mosquito-borne Disease:** Chikungunya, Dengue, Malaria

**Tick-borne Disease:** Lyme Disease, Tick-borne Encephalitis

**Zoonotic Disease:** General Zoonotic Disease

**Respiratory Effect:** Asthma

**Medical Community Engagement:** 

resource focus on how the medical community discusses or acts to address health impacts of climate change

A focus of content

**Mitigation/Adaptation:** 

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation, Mitigation

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## **Model/Methodology:** ☒

type of model used or methodology development is a focus of resource

Exposure Change Prediction

**Population of Concern:** A focus of content

## **Population of Concern:** ☒

populations at particular risk or vulnerability to climate change impacts

Children, Elderly, Low Socioeconomic Status, Racial/Ethnic Subgroup

**Other Racial/Ethnic Subgroup:** Indigenous populations

**Other Vulnerable Population:** Pre-existing medical conditions; Women

## **Resource Type:** ☒

format or standard characteristic of resource

Review

## **Timescale:** ☒

time period studied

Long-Term (>50 years)